MR. THEROOR S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI: May I know from the Chief Engineer whether he has spent any amount from this fund?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRSIHNAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: The amount given for the reserve fund for the year 1120 is Rs. 8,02,557 and that for 1121 Rs. 18,02,557. Is it not clear that almost all the works provided in the budget are not done?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Various kinds of works are in different stages. Due to various reasons these works are not progressing as fast as we wanted them to.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Shall we hope that in the next year also works will progress in the same way as it did in the last year. The total reserve for 1120 was Rs. 8 lakhs. This year it was Rs. 18 lakhs and it will be the entire allotment next year?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Hope not, Sir.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether it was due to the non-co-operation of your subordinates?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know from the Chief Engineer whether an amount sanctioned for one work this year, if it is not completed this year, will be spent in the next year?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It may well be spent.

Highway Scheme.

178. ✻ MR. K. A. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the part this Government have to play in the Highway Scheme of the Government of India;

(*b*) how many miles of this highway are to run through this State;

(*c*) the estimated cost of the highway;

(*d*) what steps this Government have taken to implement this scheme; and

(*e*) what is the width of this road?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) There is no definite information.

(*b*) 198 miles.

(*c*) Regular estimate has yet to be prepared.

(*d*) The major portion of the length has been surveyed and demarcated and the estimate is under preparation for the surveyed lengths.

(*e*) The width of the road is 43 feet at formation level and varying from 66 feet to 100 feet.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: Is our scheme independent of the India Government Scheme?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Originally it was part of the India Government's scheme. The portions between Cochin and the Northern border is part of the Travancore scheme.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: Will the Chief Engineer kindly give us an idea as to how much amount it will cost?

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DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: The whole thing may cost about 2 crores.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The so-called National Highway Scheme was started as a result of investigations conducted by the Government of India. They made arrangements to plan for Highways throughout India and came to the conclusion that Rs. 450 crores may be spent on the scheme. They invited the various Indian States to co-operate with them and to take up this scheme in conjunction with them. Soon after, the policy of the Government of India changed and, they decided that they will not take any interest in any Highway Scheme of Indian States. As a result they made arrangements to carry on their National Highway Scheme up to Cochin and left Cochin and Travancore to deal with the scheme for themselves. Before this Government were apprised of this change of policy this Government suggested to the Government of India that there are two schemes, one going along the coast and the other through the interior. Offer was made by this Government to the Government of India that we would take up whichever work they leave out. The Government of India agreed to undertake the work of the coastal line. Again the Government of India changed their policy and I believe the whole of the Scheme is under reconsideration. Therefore we have not to rely upon them with regard to any possibility of the scheme. This Government are going through with both these schemes and probably will have to decide on which of these schemes we should embark upon first. As soon as we get the necessary materials, that scheme will be completed, with concrete just like the road from here to Nagercoil. That is the scheme of this Government. Therefore honourable members may take it that there is no question of Indian National Highway Scheme so far as Indian States are concerned. Probably there is no National Highway Scheme for India.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: It is stated that the width of the road is 43 feet at formation level and varying from 66 feet to 100 feet. Why there is this variation?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: It depends on the embankments, cuttings and things like that. Top will be uniform though the width of bottom varies. Top will be 43 feet wide throughout.

Additional Divisions, Sub-Divisions and Sections in the P. W. D.

179. *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the total number of additional Divisions, Sub-Divisions and Sections respectively established after the present Chief Engineer has taken charge of the Department; and

(*b*) the total annual expenditure in connection with the maintenance of the above?

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